

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels the original claims, without prejudice, in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE03/01851. The Preliminary Amendment also adds new claims 13-25. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(b), the Substitute Specification (including the Abstract) contains no new matter. The amendments reflected in the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are to conform the Specification and Abstract to United States Patent and Trademark Office rules or to correct informalities. As required by 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b)(3)(ii) and 1.125(c), a Marked-Up Version of the Substitute Specification comparing the Specification of record and the Substitute Specification also accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. Approval and entry of the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are respectfully requested.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE03/01851 includes an International Search Report, dated November 25, 2003, a copy of which is submitted herewith.

Applicants assert that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CHUCK

~~Background Information~~ Field Of The Invention

The present invention is directed to a chuck ~~according to the definition of the species in Claim 1, for a hammer drill or a chisel hammer in particular.~~

5 Background Information

A chuck for a boring tool, which allows one-handed operation when changing the tool, is known from ~~DE~~German Published Patent Application No. 100 26 021 A1-021. For this purpose, the chuck has a chuck body having an insertion opening, into which a tool shank may be axially inserted. In the inserted state, the tool shank may be axially locked by locking
10 bodies, the locking bodies engaging in axially running grooves in the tool shank, so that the tool shank has a specific movement play in the axial direction in the locked state. For this purpose, radial yielding movement of the locking bodies is prevented by an axially displaceable locking sleeve when the locking sleeve is in a locked position. In contrast, when the locking sleeve is pushed into an unlocked position by the operator, the locking bodies
15 may yield radially outward and the boring tool may be removed from the chuck or inserted into the chuck. The locking sleeve is pre-tensioned in the direction of the locked position by a spring in this case, in order to prevent unintentional unlocking of the boring tool. To allow one-handed operation, however, the locking sleeve may be axially arrested in the unlocked position, the arresting being performed by a leaf spring, for example, which engages in the
20 locking sleeve from the inside.

~~Advantages of the~~ Summary Of The Invention

In contrast, the present invention provides a chuck in which the mechanism for arresting the locking sleeve is simple and robust.

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For this purpose, an arresting pin, which is displaceable in the radial direction in relation to the insertion opening between an arresting position and a release position, is mounted in the preferably sleeve-shaped locking element.

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In the arresting position of the arresting pin, the locking element is arrested in the unlocked position, so that the tool shank may be inserted into the chuck or removed from the chuck without the user having to hold the locking element at the same time.

- 5 In contrast, in the release position of the arresting pin, the locking element is not arrested in the unlocked position, as the result of which the tool shank is axially locked in the chuck.

10 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a spring element is provided which pre-tensions the arresting pin in the direction of the arresting position, the arresting pin pressing against an axial stop in the chuck body in the arresting position. The arresting pin then preferably slides automatically into the arresting position because of the spring pre-tension when the user moves the locking element out of the locked position into the unlocked position. Therefore, no user intervention is necessary to arrest the locking element in the unlocked position in this case, which significantly simplifies operation.

15 The arresting of the locking element may preferably also be disengaged without user intervention in order to further simplify operation. In a preferred embodiment, the arresting pin may therefore be disengaged from the arresting position by the tool shank. This disengagement of the arresting preferably occurs in that the movement of the tool shank when
20 being removed from the chuck and/or when being inserted into the chuck is transmitted to the arresting pin and thus disengages it from the arresting position.

For this purpose, a preferably spherical transmission element may be provided for transmitting force from the tool shank to the arresting pin, for example, this transmission
25 element projecting radially into the insertion opening of the chuck and being displaced radially outward when the tool shank is inserted or removed and pressing the arresting pin radially outward at the same time.

The transmission element is preferably a ball which is mounted in an opening in the chuck
30 body so it is radially displaceable. For this purpose, the opening preferably tapers conically inward in order to prevent the ball from falling out on the inside when there is no tool shank in the chuck.

The concept of a locking element used in the scope of the present invention is to be understood generally and is not restricted to the locking sleeve described at the beginning, which encloses the chuck body like a sheath and is axially displaceable.

- 5 A spring element is preferably provided which pre-tensions the locking element in the direction of the locked position in order to prevent unintended unlocking of the tool shank.

The locking element may be displaced, for example, as in the known chuck described at the beginning, in that the user directly operates the locking element.

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However, in a preferred embodiment, a separate operating element is provided which is preferably implemented as an operating sleeve and advantageously encloses the locking element like a sheath. The operating element is preferably axially displaceable and pre-tensioned by a spring element in the axial direction in order to define a neutral position. A movement of the operating element may be transmitted to the locking element, which may occur, for example, in that the operating element drives the locking element. However, it is also alternatively possible that the operating element is coupled rigidly or elastically to the locking element in order to transmit the movement of the operating element to the locking element.

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The tool shank may actually be locked in the chuck, as in the known chuck described at the beginning, by locking bodies which engage in corresponding grooves in the tool shank. However, radially displaceable locking rollers, which are significantly more wear-resistant, are preferably used to lock the tool shank.

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Furthermore, the present invention also relates to a machine tool, such as a hammer drill or a chisel hammer, having a chuck according to the present invention.

Drawing

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~~Further advantages result from the following description of the drawing. Two exemplary embodiments of the present invention are illustrated in the drawing. The drawing, the description, and the claims contain numerous features in combination. One skilled in the art~~

will also advisably consider the features individually and combine them into expedient further combinations.

Brief Description Of The Drawings

5 Figure 1 shows a cross-sectional view of a chuck according to the present invention in the unlocked position as a tool shank is being inserted.

Figure 2 shows a cross-sectional view of the chuck from Figure 1 in the locked position with a tool shank inserted.

10 Figure 3 shows a cross-sectional view of the chuck from Figure 1 in the unlocked position as the tool shank is being removed.

Figure 4a shows a detailed view of the chuck from Figure 1 in cross section.

15 Figure 4b shows the detailed view from Figure 4a in a radial top view, and.

Figure 5 shows an alternative embodiment of a chuck according to the present invention.

20 Detailed Description of the Exemplary Embodiments

The cross-sectional views in Figures 1 through 3 show a chuck 10 for a hammer drill or a chisel hammer, chuck 10 allowing axial locking of a tool shank 12 with a predefined axial movement play and simple one-handed operation when changing tools.

25 For this purpose, the chuck has an essentially hollow-cylindrical chuck body 14 having an insertion opening 16, into which tool shank 12 may be axially inserted.

Multiple openings are provided distributed around the circumference in chuck body 14, in each of which a locking roller 18 is positioned, the openings tapering inward in the radial
30 direction in order to prevent locking rollers 18 from being able to fall out on the inside.

Locking rollers 18 may engage in an axially running groove 20 in the lateral surface of tool shank 12 to axially lock tool shank 12, through which tool shank 12 is locked with a predefined axial movement play.

Furthermore, chuck 10 has a locking sleeve 22 which is axially displaceable between the locked position shown in Figure 2 and the unlocked position shown in Figure 1.

5 In the locked position shown in Figure 2, locking sleeve 22 covers the openings in chuck body 14 and thus prevents a radial yielding motion of locking rollers 18, through which removal of tool shank 12 is prevented.

10 In the unlocked position shown in Figures 1 and 3, in contrast, the openings in chuck body 14 are covered by an elastic lip-type ring 26, which is attached to the inside of a stepped expansion of locking sleeve 22. Locking rollers 18 may then yield radially outward, so that tool shank 12 may be removed from chuck 10 or inserted into chuck 10.

15 Locking sleeve 22 is pre-tensioned in the direction of the locked position by a spring element 24 for this purpose, in order to prevent unintentional unlocking of tool shank 12.

Chuck 10 is operated by an operating sleeve 28 which externally encloses locking sleeve 22 and is axially displaceable, operating sleeve 28 being pre-tensioned in the axial direction by a spring element 30. When operating sleeve 28 is displaced in the direction of locking sleeve 22, operating sleeve 28 strikes against locking sleeve 22, locking sleeve 22 being axially driven.

25 Furthermore, chuck 10 has an elastic, annular dust lip-type ring 32, which prevents the penetration of dust into insertion opening 16.

In addition, chuck 10 has an arresting mechanism, which arrests locking sleeve 22 in the unlocked position and thus allows one-handed operation when changing the tool.

30 The arresting mechanism includes, among other things, a steel ball 34, which is mounted so it is radially displaceable in a radially running opening 35 in chuck body 14. Opening 35 in chuck body 14 tapers inward in the radial direction in order to prevent ball 34 from falling out of opening 35 into the inside of insertion opening 16. Ball 34 may thus only partially project inward into insertion opening 16, as shown in Figure 1.

Furthermore, the arresting mechanism has an arresting pin 36, which is mounted so it is radially displaceable in a radially running hole in locking sleeve 22, arresting pin 36 being pre-tensioned radially inward by an annular spring 38.

5 Arresting pin 36 is guided in two axially running grooves 40, 42, which are positioned in the lateral surface of chuck body 14 on both sides of opening 35 for ball 34, workpiece-side groove 40 being shallower than tool-side groove 42. In the unlocked position shown in Figure 1, arresting pin 36 therefore presses axially against the step between both grooves 40, 42, through which locking sleeve 22 is axially arrested.

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In the following, it will be described on the basis of Figure 1 how tool shank 12 is inserted into chuck 10 and then locked automatically.

Before tool shank 12 is inserted, locking sleeve 22 must first be brought into the unlocked
15 position shown in Figure 1. For this purpose, the user pushes operating sleeve 28 in the direction of locking sleeve 22, locking sleeve 22 being axially driven until arresting pin 36 finally catches behind the step between both grooves 40, 42 and thus axially arrests locking sleeve 22.

20 Subsequently, the user may release operating sleeve 28, which then travels back to the starting position because of the pre-tension of spring 30.

When tool shank 12 is axially inserted into insertion opening 16, tool shank 12 then presses locking rollers 18 radially outward until locking rollers 18 engage in grooves 20 in tool shank
25 12.

When tool shank 12 is inserted further, the face of tool shank 12 then presses ball 34 radially outward, arresting pin 36 also being pressed radially outward against the pre-tension of annular spring 38.

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When arresting pin 36 is then raised over the step between both grooves 40, 42, spring 24 presses locking sleeve 22 axially into the locked position shown in Figure 2, arresting pin 36 being guided in groove 40. In the locked position, the inside of locking sleeve 22 then covers

the opening for locking rollers 18, which may therefore no longer yield radially outward and thus axially lock tool shank 12 with a predefined movement play.

5 Tool shank 12 is thus automatically locked when it is inserted into chuck 10, without user intervention being necessary.

In the following, the removal of tool shank 12 from chuck 10 will be described on the basis of Figure 3.

10 Before tool shank 12 is removed from chuck 10, locking sleeve 22 must first be brought out of the locked position shown in Figure 2 into the unlocked position shown in Figure 3. For this purpose, the user pushes operating sleeve 28 axially out of the position shown in Figure 1 in the direction of locking sleeve 22, operating sleeve 28 axially driving locking sleeve 22 until arresting pin 36 lies in groove 42 on the tool side behind ball 34 and presses against ball
15 34 at the same time.

Subsequently, the user releases operating sleeve 28, whereupon operating sleeve 28 returns to its starting position because of the return force of spring 30.

20 Locking sleeve 22 is then axially arrested by ball 34 and arresting pin 36, since arresting pin 36 presses laterally against ball 34, while ball 34 is pressed axially outward by the lateral surface of tool shank 12. It is to be noted here that groove 20 around the circumference for locking rollers 18 does not include the part in which ball 34 is positioned. Ball 34 may thus not yield inward into groove 20, since this is offset at an angle in relation to ball 34.

25 The user may then pull tool shank 12 axially out of chuck 10 until tool shank 12 finally releases ball 34, which then yields radially inward. Arresting pin 36 is then no longer blocked by ball 34, so that locking sleeve 22 travels into the locked position shown in Figure 2 because of the pre-tension of spring 24.

30 The exemplary embodiment of a chuck 10' according to the present invention shown in Figure 5 largely corresponds to chuck 10 described above, so that in the following, reference is made to the description above to avoid repetition and the same reference numbers, which

are only identified by an apostrophe for differentiation, are used for corresponding components.

5 The special feature of this exemplary embodiment is that spring 30, provided in Figures 1 through 3 to return operating sleeve 28, is dispensed with.

Instead, operating sleeve 28' is permanently connected to locking sleeve 22' in this exemplary embodiment, so that both are displaced together.

10 The present invention is not restricted to the preferred exemplary embodiments described above. Rather, multiple variations and alterations are possible, which also make use of the ideas according to the present invention and therefore fall within the scope of protection.

List of reference numbers

| | | |
|----|---------|--------------------|
| | 10, 10' | chuck |
| | 12, 12' | tool shank |
| 5 | 14, 14' | chuck body |
| | 16, 16' | insertion opening |
| | 18, 18' | locking roller |
| | 20, 20' | groove |
| | 22, 22' | locking sleeve |
| 10 | 24, 24' | spring |
| | 26, 26' | lip-type ring |
| | 28, 28' | operating sleeve |
| | 30 | spring |
| | 32, 32' | dust lip-type ring |
| 15 | 34, 34' | ball |
| | 35 | opening |
| | 36, 36' | arresting pin |
| | 38, 38' | annular spring |
| | 40 | groove |
| 20 | 42 | groove |

Abstract Of The Disclosure

A chuck is described, in particular for a hammer drill or chisel hammer, having a chuck body (14) having an insertion opening (16) for holding a tool shank (12), and a locking element (22) for axially locking the tool shank (12) in the insertion opening (16), the locking element (22) being movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, and having an arresting pin (36), mounted in the locking element (22) and radially displaceable between an arresting position and a release position, which axially arrests the locking element (22) in its arresting position and axially releases it in its release position.

10 (Figure 1)